

WASHINGTON STATE FIRE DEFENSE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

05/20/08

Conference Call

A regular meeting of the Washington State Fire Defense Committee was held via conference call on Tuesday, May 20, 2008 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Members attending the meeting were:

Central Region	Tedd Hendershot
Lower Columbia	Dave Leitch
Mid Columbia	Randy Johnson, Dale Bjork
Northeast Region	Bill Walkup
Southwest Region	Tom McDowell, Dave LaFave
Southeast Region	Grant Baynes, Bob Gear
South Puget Sound Region	Dan Smith
WSP-Fire Protection Bureau	Paul Perz, Dan Johnson, Sue Carr, Esther Hernandez
FPPB	No Representation
DNR	Joe Shramek
EMD	Ron Wilson

Chairman Dave LaFave called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes:

The minutes of the March 18th, 2008 and April 15, 2008 meetings were discussed and approved.

Announcements:

Grant Baynes announced that several of the area agencies have co-located in a new building. The new phone number for Benton # 1, Benton #2, Benton # 4, Kennewick and Richland Fire Departments is 509-737-0911.

Introductions: None

Correspondence: None

Presentations: None

Action Items:

State Chiefs Rates:

Bill Walkup advised the rates were forwarded to the State Chiefs for review. Notable changes: fuel adjustment is now to \$6.00/gallon, moderate increases in personnel rates (except Structure Protection Specialist from \$26 to \$25/hr), command vehicle mileage rate to match DNR, and personal vehicle mileage to .505/mile. Dave LaFave will support these rates at the next State Chiefs meeting if the FDC approves them today.

Action/Decision

Bill Walkup moved to approve the rates as discussed, Grant Baynes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Regional Plan Updates:

Randy Johnson advised previously emailed his area's regional plan to all committee members. He received some feedback from the committee all liked the format and it was agreed that all regions will use the Mid-Columbia format to create and update their Regional Mobilization plans.

By-Laws:

After some discussion as to the time line from the last update, Dave LaFave suggested we table this discussion until our next meeting and ensure a copy of the By-Laws be provided to all with the minutes of this meeting.

Action/Decision

Add to agenda for next meeting; include most recent copy of the FDC By-Laws with these minutes.

IAFC Gap Analysis:

Dave LaFave advised he forwarded this issue to the State Chiefs for further tasking and believes it will be tasked to the WSP. Dave mentioned there are funds available and could be used to create a "pocket guide" to Mobilization.

New Business:

All Risk Inventory:

Survey was originally opened for results on 4/22/08. To date there have been 139 responses. Esther Hernandez has been sending out e-mails to those individual districts thanking them for their participation. She will provide a breakdown of those responses by region and forward that updated information to the Regional Coordinators today. Several Regional Coordinators advised they would follow up with their departments who have not responded to the survey at this time.

SFDC Meeting Schedule:

At our last meeting it was decided the committee would meet in person on a quarterly basis and would conduct other work as necessary via conference call. The group discussed the next in person meeting and it was decided that due to the timing of fire season June would be the best time for an in person meeting. This meeting was originally scheduled for Yakima; Dave Leitch advised he would facilitate the meeting and locate a meeting space.

Reports

Fire Protection Bureau (FPB):

Paul Perz advised he and Mike Matlick have met with DNR and Military Department regarding the use of National Guard Resources during fire season. Due to budget issues they can only provide approximately 100 personnel for use during the season. Other than this change the agreement will remain substantially the same.

Paul also discussed the current ongoing Internal Revenue Service (IRS) audit of WSP. The IRS is reviewing how Volunteers are paid by the agency. It has been determined that Volunteers are employees of the agency and therefore the WSP is going to be reviewing the Code of Conduct. This will likely include an AG review of the document prior to the FDC review.

Emergency Management Division (EMD):

Ron Wilson advised that the 2008 Emergency Response Guides are due into his office shortly. He will, in turn, provide them to local EMD offices for dissemination to the local first responders. They will be available in book and DVD format.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR):

Joe Shramek advised that their Fire Aviation Manager Dave Doan will be retiring shortly. They will be advertising for his position very soon.

The DNR is experiencing a routine run-up to fire season with the forecast for an average year. They are experiencing some recruitment issues and will continue to work on strategies to find and maintain experienced summer hire personnel.

DNR is also chairing the Forest Fire Protection Prevention Working Group and expect to have their report to the Legislative committee by 8/1/08. At this point it appears that there may be some significant changes.

Paul Perz mentioned the GMAP program and looking at the report from the Forest Practices Board. Both the DNR and WSP will be reviewing the data and report to identify how we will respond and handle upcoming fire seasons.

Joe excused himself from the meeting at this point to handle other priority business (10:40 am)

Fire Protection Policy Board (FPPB):

No Report

Geographic Board:

Bill Walkup advised the group met with Agency Administrators and Team ICs at Team Review discussing the need to “right size” teams for incidents. They approved a pilot program for Rapid Assessment Teams (RAT) to further the objective of right sized teams. The Board also met with Team 1 to review the upcoming training for 2009.

Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group (PNWCG):

Dave LaFave discussed the revisions being made to 310-1 which should be available for review by 5/31/08. One of the major changes has to do with the necessity to have taken a class prior to starting a task book. This has been revised and is no longer a requirement. The information will be available on the NWCG website at the following url:

www.nwcg.gov/pms/pms.htm

Bob Gear questioned if all hazards task books will be incorporated into wild land qualifications or if they will be free standing. Tom McDowell does not believe the qualifications have been incorporated into the 310-1 document and is unaware if reciprocity has been determined. Dave advised that the FAQ page implies they will both be tied together.

Bob also questioned how to transition responders to the All Risk Qualification system. Tom believes that All Risk will accept Wild Land qualifications, but not the other way around. After lengthy discussion Dave agreed to request clarification on this issue as well.

Action/Decision:

Dave will forward the question to Mike Spencer and Steve Foley for clarification. Dave will provide update at June FDC meeting.

All Risk:

The group requested an updated document from OSFM regarding the use of Mobe for All Risk events. Randy mentioned the last documentation from OSFM was the “talking points” released about a year ago. Those do not match with the current understanding and budget language change.

Action/Decision:

OSFM will provide copy of the budget language and statement regarding the previously issued “talking points”

The meeting adjourned at 1102.